

## Message Text

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70

ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MLEVITSKY:VPB

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C-SHINN

H-JENKINS (INFO)

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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R 270152Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019673

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS - 1

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, UR

SUBJECT:SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION

REF: MOSCOW 1038

1. ISRAELI EMBOFF WHO FOLLOWS SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION  
PROVIDED DEPT OFFICER WITH FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

2. IN 1975 34,145 NEW INVITATIONS ("VYZOVS") WERE SENT  
TO SOVIET JEWS FROM ISRAEL. 16,000 INVITATIONS WERE RE-  
NEWED. IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 7,371 NEW INVITATIONS  
WERE SENT.

3. GEORGIAN JEWISH EMIGRATION IN 1975 WAS 10.6 PERCENT  
OF TOTAL. EMIGRATION FROM RSFSR, EASTERN UKRAINE AND  
BYELORUSSIA WAS 42.9 PERCENT OF TOTAL, WHEREAS IN PRE-  
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VIOUS YEARS EMIGRATION FROM THESE THREE AREAS AVERAGED

ABOUT 15 PERCENT.

4. IN 1975 PERCENTAGE OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRANTS WHO CHANGED DESTINATIONS IN VIENNA WAS ABOUT 35 PERCENT, WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF "DROPOUTS" AMONG URBAN JEWS. AS EXAMPLE, ISRAELI EMBOFF GAVE FOLLOWING PERCENTAGES OF "DROPOUTS" FOR CITIES INDICATED: MOSCOW - 71.8 PERCENT, LENINGRAD - 72 PERCENT, KIEV - 70 PERCENT, ODESSA - 91.6 PERCENT.

5. WHEN ASKED ABOUT EFFECT OF REPORTED CHANGES IN SOVIET EMIGRATION PROCEDURES, ISRAELI EMBOFF EXPRESSED OPINION THAT EMIGRATION FLOW WOULD NOT INCREASE SOLELY BECAUSE OF LIBERALIZED PROCEDURES, BUT AGREED THAT MORE JEWS MIGHT APPLY FOR EXIT IF FEELING SPREAD AMONG PROSPECTIVE EMIGRANTS THAT INTERNAL ATMOSPHERE FOR EMIGRATION WAS GETTING BETTER. IN THAT EVENT, SOVIETS WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE EITHER TO ALLOW MORE TO LEAVE OR INCREASE REFUSALS.

6. ISRAELI EMBOFF ALSO REPORTED THAT ISRAELIS HAVE HAD SOME "FEELERS" FROM SOVIETS REGARDING SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS FEBRUARY 17-19. WHILE EMBOFF DID NOT GO INTO DETAIL, THRUST OF SOVIET APPROACH WAS THAT, IF TONE OF CONFERENCE IS MODERATED, SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION WOULD TAKE PLACE. EMBOFF ASCRIBED THIS TO SOVIET DESIRE TO AVOID TO EXTENT POSSIBLE BAD PRESS IN WEST DURING PARTY CONGRESS. HE DID NOT INDICATE IF "POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS" MEANT INCREASE IN EMIGRATION FLOW OR RELEASE OF SOME PROMINENT JEWISH ACTIVISTS. (CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE BEFORE RECEIPT OF REFTEL REPORTING PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE FOR LUNTS ET AL). KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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